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U.S. Embassy Site Offered by Moscow

The Wash. Post

MOSCOW, Oct. 11 (AP)—The Soviet government has offered the United States a site in downtown Moscow to build a new embassy but U.S. officials are not too keen on it.

They hope the Russians will give them some choice of other sites in the same general area, close to the U.S. Ambassador's residence and the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

American diplomats here and Soviet diplomats in Washington have been seeking to build larger embassies. With reciprocity demanded on both sides, negotiations on sites have been tedious.

The U.S. government came up more than two months ago with a possible site for a new Soviet embassy in Washington, the 13-acre site formerly occupied by the Mt. Alto Veterans Hospital, recently closed.

After Soviet diplomats had looked at it, the government here suggested a site to U.S. diplomats.

It meets one important American specification by being reasonably close to Spasso House, the old merchant's mansion where the U.S. Ambassador lives within four blocks of the Foreign Ministry.

But, although U.S. embassy officials declined to say exactly where the site is, the location apparently is not so large or in such a good neighborhood as they would like.

Slum clearance work has been going on in the Spasso House area, opening up large areas for new Soviet apart-

ment and commercial buildings.

The present U.S. embassy building was erected about 15 years ago as an apartment house. Embassy administrative offices occupy the ground floor, apartments for embassy personnel are on the second through seventh floors, and the main offices are on three top floors.